5.3.93, has asked the importers to pay duty of Rs. 3.37 crores and redemption fine of Rs. 3.80 crores. He has also imposed personal penalty on the concerned firms and also on the Directors of both firms.

Presently, all the machines, including those assembled from the use of spares, are lying at Gummidipondi (TN), Madak (AP), Bagru, Bikaner & Malpura (Rajasthan), Bulandshahar, Chamoli, Jhansi & Bareilly (UP). These machines are not in use.

Judicial and Administrative System

318. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the judicial and administrative system of the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D KHALAP) : (a) to (c). The improvement of the Judicial and administrative systems in the Courts is a continuous process To make an in-depth study of the problem of arrears and for improving Judicial and administrative system in Courts a committee of three Chief Justices of High Courts (Justice Malimath Committee) was constituted by the Government in 1989 The Committee has made several recommendation on various aspects covering jurisdictional and procedural modifications, the improvements in the judiciary, the setting up of specialised bodies such as tribunals/commissions to deal with specific types of cases, the fixation of Judges strength and appointment of Judges in High Courts the creation of more posts in the subordinate judiciary and a number of other general recommendations relating to modernisation of office equipment in courts and allocation of more funds to the judiciary These recommendations were forwarded inter-alia to all the concerned State Governments and the High Courts for necessary follow-up action

Further the problem of arrears of cases in Courts and their expeditious disposal was also considered in a meeting of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held on 4th December, 1993 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister The Conference recommended several steps in a resolution it adopted for the speedy disposal of cases in the Courts/Tribunals This resolution has been commended to all the State Governments/UT Administrations and High Courts/ Tribunals for necessary action. The implementation of December, 1993 resolution and the recommendations made by the Working Groups were reviewed by the Law Ministers at their plenary meeting held in Calcutta in November, 1995. The resolutions adopted in these meeting have also been commended to all the concerned authorities for necessary follow-up action.

[English]

Domestic Entrepreneurship

319 SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are making efforts to support and promote domestic entrepreneurship;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of sucess achieved therefrom so far?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Various measures have been taken to promote domestic entrepreneurship. Some of the measures taken by the Government, inter-alia, include reduction in excise duties, levy of countervailing duty wherever required, reduction in corporate tax, etc. So far, 25781 number of investment proposals in the delicensed sector, with proposed investment of Rs 504,782/-crores during the period 1 8.1991 to 31 5 96, have been filed.

Rural Credit System

320 DR ARUN KUMAR SARMA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the rural credit system through Regional Rural Banks throughout the country; and

(b) if so the concrete steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are an important component of the rural credit delivery system The following steps have, therefore, been taken to strengthen and streamline the functioning of the RRBs

(i) With a view to widening the range and scope of their services, the RRBs have been allowed, with effect from 1 1 1994, to finance non-target groups to the extent of 60% of their fresh lending More discretionary powers have been given to them for purchase/discounting of cheques/